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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,865	12/24/2003	Juusei Matsumoto	247055US3	9346
22850	7590	08/23/2005		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER TAWFIK, SAMEH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3721	
DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,865

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Sameh H. Tawfik

Art Unit

3721

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner withdrew the allowable subject matter to claim 3 of paper Num. 04072005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the document table" in lines 1 and 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the surface below" in 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the automatic document feeder" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "the document table" in lines 1 and 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "the surface below" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "the automatic document feeder" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 3, lines 4 and 5 and claim 22, line 8 "a cover which covers an outer periphery of the closed ceiling plate" is vague, indefinite, and or confusingly worded, because it is not clear how come the cover as shown in Fig. 4 cover 6, will be able to cover an outer periphery of the ceiling plate 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tilseth (3,753,407).

Tilseth discloses a packing method using a palette on which an article (12) to be packed can be placed, and an article-fixing member (59 and 62) which fixes the article on the palette, wherein the article-fixing member is accommodated in an accommodating space internal to the palette (Fig. 1; via lower portion of 62 fixed into the palette by grooving wall 50) such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out from the accommodating space (via by pivoting portion 62 will be out of the groove of palette wall 50) when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the palette (Figs. 1, 6, 8, 9, and 10; via member 62 is pulled out by pivoting away from the palette).

Regarding claim 2: wherein the article-fixing member is wound around the article at least in a direction that is perpendicular to the plan of the palette, and when the article-fixing member is wound around the article (via 59 is wound around the article 12), the article-fixing member pushes the article against the palette, see for example (Fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tilseth (3,753,407) in view of Ishikawa et al. (Pub. No.: US 2002/0008048).

Tilseth does not disclose a ceiling plate, wherein the surface of the article located below the ceiling plate. However, Ishikawa discloses similar packing method with using a top/ceiling plate 13, which the article is located below the ceiling plate (Fig. 14).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Tilseth, by having a ceiling plate to be placed on the top of the article, as suggested by Ishikawa, in order to protect the top of the product while shipping.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

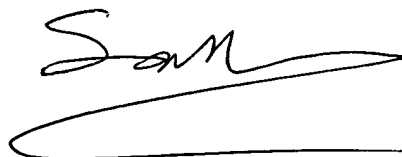
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is 571-272-4470. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sameh H. Tawfik
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3721

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sameh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ST.